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- BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL -

- ANNUAL REPORT -

of the

- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

for 1952.

To the CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS of the
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2,392.4
Population (Preliminary Census) 1951...	3,151
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid 1952	3,108
No. of Inhabited Houses (at the end of 1952)	1,012
Rateable Value	£12,867
Sum represented by a penny rate	£48.18.7d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population estimated at mid 1952 ... 3,108.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Live) Legitimate	40	20	20
Births) Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>43</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>

Live Birth rates per 1,000
estimated population:-

Crude	13.8
Adjusted	14.0

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Still) Legitimate	3	3	-
Births) Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births ... 65.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births .. Nil

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. 70

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. 47

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Deaths</u> (all forms)	39	20	19

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude	12.5
Adjusted	12.0

Death rate Respiratory T.B. - Nil

Death rate Malignant Neoplasms etc. 1.93

Deaths of Infants under

1 year of age 3 2 1

Deaths of Infants under

4 weeks of age 2 1 1



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CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	-
Malignant neoplasms	3	3
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	1	7
Coronary Disease angina	2	-
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
Other Heart Disease	7	4
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-
Bronchitis	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
Motor Vehicle accidents	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>

Note:- There were seven transferable deaths which are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were only 13 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year compared with 127 in the previous year. Of these 6 cases were Measles, 5 Whooping Cough, and 2 Pneumonia.

Two cases of Tuberculosis were notified (one Pulmonary T.B. and one Non-Pulmonary T.B.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health, and the children from the Blackrod District receive treatment at Westhoughton. Special transport is provided pending the provision of a clinic in Blackrod.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED

Age periods - Years.

	Total cases all ages	0- 1-	1- 3-	3- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 45-	45- 65 & over	Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital
Measles	6	2	3	1					-	-
Whooping Cough	5	2	1	2					-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	1						1	-
Pulmonary T.B.	1					1			1	-
Non-Pul. T.B.	1						1		-	-
	15	5	5	3		1	1		2	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA
(National Assistance Act, 1948)

No applications received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising Midwife in the District, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes in Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For Infectious Diseases - By arrangement with the Divisional Health Office at Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest Hospital (on the list) that can accept accommodation.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this District are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION 1952

Water Supply.

The water supply for the District is obtained from the Council's own watershed situated in the Horwich U.D. area. The gathering grounds are moorland in character and the collected water is stored into an impounding reservoir. In addition to the surface water water is also obtained from springs and adits driven into the hill side, which produces a constant dry weather flow.

During the year an adequate supply of water has been maintained for all purposes, and for a greater part of the year the reservoir has been full or overflowing.

The quality of the water passed into supply has been satisfactory and of the 5 samples submitted for analysis no bacterial pollution could be found. 4 samples of water were taken from the reservoir prior to being passed into supply - 2 were found to be satisfactory, and 2 gave evidence of bacterial pollution. To safeguard the purity of the water passed into supply continuous chlorination is carried out, the plant being entirely automatic in its operation, and the chlorine dose being varied according to the flow of water. The dosage of chlorine is recorded on a chart and checks are made daily with a comparator, and adjustments carried out as required.

As a precaution against plumbic solvent action on lead, only 'tinned' lead pipes are used for water supply. No samples have been submitted to ascertain whether any contamination from lead pipes has taken place. There have also been no samples submitted for chemical analysis.

There has been no evidence of any contamination of the water supply during the year, but in conjunction with the Fire Service, a scheme is on hand for the conversion of all the ball type fire hydrants to valve type hydrants. Approximately two thirds of the District have now been converted to this modern type of hydrant.

An additional 20 new houses have been connected to the public main, and the total number of houses which are supplied with a piped water supply from public mains is as follows

a)	Direct to houses -	1,048	-	3,150	persons
b)	Standpipes -	Nil		Nil	

Small extensions to the existing supply mains have been carried out for the supply to the Council's Housing Scheme. Approximately 250 yds. of 3" main has been laid for this purpose.

Bulk quantities of water are supplied by agreement to Adlington U.D.C. and Wigan R.D.C.

SEWERAGE

Broad irrigation is the method used for the disposal of sewage in the District, this being treated at two main outfalls, one at Scot Lane and at Hightingale Farm. Improvements are required at both of these outfalls.

FOOD

Inspections are made at Shops and Food Preparing Premises at frequent intervals, and all concerned in the trade are advised of the requirements of the Model Bye-Laws, which have been adopted by the Authority.

There are no slaughter houses in use at the present time. All carcass meat is slaughtered outside the District.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the District. Nine premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and in all cases only wrapped pre-packed ice cream is sold.

30 samples of milk were taken from Producers and Producer-Retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for analysis. 2 of these samples were found to be affected with tubercle bacilli. One of these affected samples was from milk produced in the District and action was taken under Regulation 20 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949, stopping the sale of this milk unless it had been heat treated prior to being sold. In the other case of infected milk, this was produced outside the District, and was also dealt with under Regulation 20 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

SCAVENGING OF STREETS

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for the District, and they scavenge and maintain Class I & II Roads. The District Council are responsible for Class III Roads, and these are scavenged along with District Roads at regular intervals.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

No. of premises visited	246
Defects or Nuisances discovered	56
Notices served - Informal	54
Statutory	25
Legal Proceedings	9

In connection with Legal Proceedings, these were successful in each case with costs, 3 of the cases were taken to the Court of Appeal, and in each case the

Appeals were dismissed with costs to the Council.

Complaints received, or defects observed when visiting properties are mostly due to inadequate maintenance of the fabric of the building over a long period, and difficulties are being experienced in getting repairs done. Many Landlords will only repair their properties when they are forced by Statutory Notices being served upon them, and even then many visits have to be made to ensure that reasonable repairs will be carried out.

SHOPS & OFFICES

90 Inspections were made to shops in connection with the provision of the Shops Act, 1950.

6 Inspections were made to offices in connection with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no trades scheduled as Offensive Trades, in operation in the District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse is carried out by direct labour, one motor vehicle being used for this purpose. The refuse is disposed of by depositing on sunken land which is levelled, and may again be used for agricultural purposes. Cesspools are emptied by hand or mechanical pumps and the sludge carted away with a horse drawn tank cart. Privy middens and pail closets are also emptied at regular intervals. The problem of who shall supply the dust bin has created difficulties during the year, and the Council have undertaken to give consideration to the provision of refuse bins, as a charge on the Rate Fund.

SCHOOLS

There are three Junior Schools and one Secondary Modern School in the District. The sanitary accommodation provided, is satisfactory at all the schools. At the National Junior School the facilities for hand washing and meals are unsatisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

There are two Bakehouses in the District. Both have been inspected regularly and the conditions are satisfactory.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

Number in the District - 9.

Rayon Processing	1.	Agricultural Equipment	1
Weaving Shed	1.	Clogger & Boot	
Joiner	1.	Repairer	1

CONVENIENCES IN THE DISTRICT

There are two Public Conveniences provided in the District, one at the junction of Station Road with Manchester Road, and one near the Blackhorse Hotel.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1952

Privy Middens	19
Closets attached to Middens	27
No. of dry Ashpits	Nil
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1,027.
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil
No. of Refuse Bins	1,032.

1 Privy midden has been converted and 2 water closets provided.

HOUSING

In connection with Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, demolition Orders were made in respect of 15 cottages. None of these houses have yet been demolished. 4 cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year by rehousing on the Council's Estate.

20 new houses have been tenanted during the year, made up as follows - 12 - 2 Bedroom type. 6 - 3 Bedroom types, and 2 - 4 Bedroom types. A further 34 houses are under construction.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT

The continued building of new houses to enable a vigorous programme for the demolition of all unfit and substandard houses which cannot be brought up to the required standard.

The further conversion of privy middens to which a sewer is available. Improvements to the sewage disposal arrangements.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton.

7th July, 1953.

